

Preliminary Amendment
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/556,358

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application, of which claims 1, 3 and 8 have been amended.
No new claims have been added.

Claim 1 is amended in order to clarify the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is involved. Claims 3 and 8 have been to correct an informality.

The allowance of Claims 3, 8, 9, 13, 15, 17 and 19 is acknowledged.

It is respectfully submitted that the present claimed invention of independent Claim 1 is distinct from the references of record for at least the following reasons:

Regarding the cited reference of Nakanishi, the device of Nakanishi lacks "at least one branch terminal" on each longitudinal busbar, and "at least one branch terminal" on each lateral busbar, as presently claimed. The claimed "branch terminals" are for "connecting with connectors of the at least one outside wiring harness". It is respectfully submitted that the previously alleged "branch terminals", that is (21) and (near lead line 4) of Nakanishi, can not properly be considered to be branch terminals for connecting to a connector, as connectors known in the art could not connect to the alleged "branch terminals".

Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that the previously alleged lateral busbars (1b) do not connect any previously alleged longitudinal busbars (20), as in the present claimed invention. Although such arrangement may not be clearly shown in Fig. 1 of Nakanishi, a circuit diagram shown in Fig. 4 clearly shows that none of the previously alleged longitudinal busbars (20A-20F) are connected by previously alleged lateral busbars (1b), as no electrical connection is shown through the center of the drawing.

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In view of the present amendment to Claim 1, and the above remarks, it is believed that Claim 1 and Claims 2, 4-7, 10-12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 dependent directly or indirectly therefrom are patentable and in condition for allowance in addition to allowed claims 3, 8, 9, 13, 15, 17 and 19.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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